

Fiscal Year 2011/2012 Budget Highlights and Goals

Public Defender

FY2010 Highlights

- Caseload continues to increase at 3 % yearly, yet, quality legal representation to indigent clients (including more bench and jury trials,) continues at minimal cost to County.
- It is projected that sixteen (16) Public Defender clients will successfully graduate from Mental Health Court in 2011.
- Partnering in the Research and Development of County's first Drug Court.
- Implemented an electronic management program to efficiently archive files.
- Effective management of attorneys in covering courtroom cases and in meeting continuing legal education.
- Reviewing and updating internal administrative policies to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of services and procedures.

FY2011 Goals

- Establish and prepare to provide services to the County's first "Drug Court."
- Completion of an integrated court information system for the Public Defender's Office.
- Courtroom representation
 - Horizontal representation for each appointed client and each full time public defender being responsible for an assigned courtroom
 - Maintain and preserve flexibility and professionalism in providing quality legal representation in criminal and related proceedings to indigent defendants at small cost to county.
- Investigations
 - Newly appointed clients are promptly interviewed.
 - Design and implement comprehensive procedures, investigating crime scenes, transporting defendants, and assisting in the preparation of materials which will be used at trial when the defendant's side of the case is presented.
- Reception/clerical
 - Coordination between client and attorney
 - Build and maintain data base of reports, motions, memos, briefs, etc.
 - Maintain open communication between staff members to foster team effort.